(c) whether there is urgent need to review the rape laws in the light of increased incidents of custodial rape and child abuse; and

(d) if so, the time by which necessary amendments will be made in the said laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI); (a) to (d) The Law Commission of India in its 172nd Report has reviewed the rape laws and *inter alia*, recommended changes in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 as well as in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to deal with sexual offences more effectively. The Commission has also recommended insertion of a new section in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 to deal with "unlawful sexual contact". However, it has not suggested setting up of special courts to deal with sexual offences.

The recommendations of the Law Commission of India are proposed to be examined in consultation with the State Governments as Criminal law is on the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Bomb blasts at Railway Stations

4749. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cases of bomb blasts at railway stations and in trains are rapidly increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details of cases of bomb blasts held during the last one year till date at railway stations and in trains;

(c) whether any strategy has been adopted by Government to check such crimes by strengthening its forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes in the trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police, which functions under the control of the respective State Governments/UT Administration. It is, therefore, essentially for them to take such measures as are necessary to curb crime on railways and prevent incidents of sabotage. The Railway administration, on its part, maintains close and constant

coordination with the State Governments concerned and renders necessary assistance to them to contain crime on Railways.

Crimes against SCs / STs/Women/Children

4750. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the position of crimes against SCs/STs/Women and Children in various States for 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof by standard norms for the past five years with emerging trends;

(c) the Details of action taken/proposed to be taken to deal with the problem; and

(d) the action proposed for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The National Crime Records Bureau collects regularly data on crimes against SCs/STs, women and children and analyses the same in its annual publication entitled 'Crime in India'. The analysis for 1999 could not be undertaken, as data from some of the States is yet to be received.

(b) The details of crime during 1995—98 against SCs/STs, women and children are as below:

Year	SC	ST	Women	Children
1995	32996	54989	109259	5749
1996	31440	4973	115723	5582
1997	27944	4644	121265	5980
1998	25638	4276	131475	5882

(c) and (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. As such, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to give more focussed attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system to ensure prevention of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and other vulnerable sections of the society. The Government of India has also been extending